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rant a consideration of such revisions and changes as might appear advisable and to assist in the further development of the plan.

As suggested in previous reports of this committee, the Public Health Service acts as the central collecting agency for current reports of morbidity from industrial establishments. This work has been made a part of the functions of the Statistical Office of the Public Health Service.

In a letter to the chairman of this committee from the statistician in charge of the Statistical Office, one point is mentioned which your committee feels that it should lay especial emphasis upon, namely, the fact that this work is seriously handicapped by the lack of sufficient appropriations. The collection of reports of disease prevalence, in sufficient detail to permit of statistical analysis from the points of view of race, sex, age, and occupation, for a definitely enumerated and observed group of persons, is fundamental to a dependable epidemiology. There is no large body of such material in the United States, and public health work has been, and still is, seriously handicapped by this lack. Particularly is this true in the field of industrial hygiene, where an accurate measure of the effects of occupation upon the health of the workers is badly needed. It is believed that the collection of a large body of facts relating to the incidence of disease among wage earners and a system of current reports of disease prevalence among a large number of wage earners will go far to supply this need. Such is the purpose of the work outlined by your committee, and, while excellent progress has been made, its development and usefulness are postponed in a large measure by insufficient appropriations to the Public Health Service. Your committee therefore feels that every effort should be made to urge the importance of this undertaking and the necessity for sufficiently large appropriations by Congress to the Public Health Service to permit of its proper development as a health measure of fundamental importance.

LOUIS I. DUBLIN, *Chairman.*

CARL B. AUEL.

WILLIAM A. HATHAWAY.

B. S. WARREN, *Secretary.*

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## PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH IN UNITED STATES REGISTRATION AREA, 1919.<sup>1</sup>

### CENSUS BUREAU SUMMARIZES MORTALITY STATISTICS.

The Census Bureau's annual bulletin on mortality statistics for the death registration area in continental United States, which will be issued shortly, shows 1,096,436 deaths as having occurred in 1919.

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<sup>1</sup> Similar summaries for the years 1917 and 1918 were published in Public Health Reports for July 4, 1919, and Feb. 13, 1920, respectively.

This represents a rate of 12.9 per 1,000 population, and is the lowest rate recorded in any year since the establishment of the registration area. The rate for 1919 is in striking contrast with the unusually high rate for 1918, the year of the pandemic of influenza, which was 18 per 1,000. This is a drop of 5.1 per 1,000 population.

The death registration area in 1919 comprised 33 States, the District of Columbia, and 18 registration cities in nonregistration States; with a total estimated population of 85,147,822, or 81.1 per cent of the estimated population of the United States. The States of Delaware, Florida, and Mississippi were added to the area in 1919 and Nebraska in 1920, so that now the only States not in the area are Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, West Virginia, and Wyoming. The Territory of Hawaii is part of the registration area, but the figures given in this summary relate only to the area in continental United States.

The following table shows, for the death registration area in continental United States in 1919, the total number of deaths and the death rate by certain leading causes, together with the percentage which each cause contributed to the total:

Cause of death.	Number of deaths.	Rate per 100,000 population.	Per cent of total.
All causes <sup>1</sup> .....	1,096,436	1,287.7	100.0
Organic diseases of the heart.....	111,579	131.0	10.2
Tuberculosis (all forms).....	106,985	125.6	9.8
Tuberculosis of the lungs <sup>2</sup> .....	94,772	111.3	8.6
Tuberculous meningitis.....	5,175	6.1	.5
Other forms of tuberculosis.....	7,038	8.3	.6
Pneumonia (all forms).....	105,213	123.6	9.6
Influenza.....	84,113	98.8	7.7
Acute nephritis and Bright's disease.....	75,005	88.1	6.8
Cancer and other malignant tumors.....	68,551	80.5	6.3
External causes (suicide excepted).....	67,654	79.5	6.2
Cerebral hemorrhage and softening.....	66,918	78.6	6.1
Congenital debility and malformations.....	56,714	66.6	5.2
Diarrhea and enteritis (under 2 years).....	37,635	44.2	3.4
Diabetes.....	12,683	14.9	1.2
Diphtheria and croup.....	12,551	14.7	1.1
Bronchitis.....	10,913	12.8	1.0
Appendicitis and typhlitis.....	10,029	11.8	.9
Suicide.....	9,732	11.4	.9
Puerperal affections, other than puerperal septicemia.....	9,538	11.2	.9
Respiratory diseases, other than pneumonia and bronchitis.....	8,865	10.4	.8
Hernia and intestinal obstruction.....	8,853	10.4	.8
Typhoid fever.....	7,860	9.2	.7
Cirrhosis of the liver.....	6,704	7.9	.6
Meningitis.....	5,508	6.5	.5
Puerperal septicemia.....	4,950	5.8	.5
Whooping cough.....	4,714	5.5	.4
Rheumatism.....	3,907	4.6	.4
Measles.....	3,296	3.9	.3
Malaria.....	3,275	3.8	.3
Scarlet fever.....	2,383	2.8	.2
Erysipelas.....	2,186	2.6	.2
Smallpox.....	358	.4	( <sup>3</sup> )
All other defined causes.....	172,161	202.2	15.7
Unknown and ill-defined causes.....	15,603	18.3	1.4

<sup>1</sup> Exclusive of stillbirths.

<sup>2</sup> Includes acute miliary tuberculosis.

<sup>3</sup> Less than one-tenth of 1 per cent.